

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 /064 W

----- 064389

R 161618Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7603

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NI

SUBJECT: FMG ISSUES ULTIMATUM TO DOCTORS

REF: LAGOS 171

1. HEAD OF STATE, GENERAL GOWON, ISSUED THREE-DAY ULTIMATUM JANUARY 15 TO STRIKING MEDICAL SERVICE PERSONNEL TO RETURN TO WORK BY JANUARY 18 OR FMG WOULD TAKE "NECESSARY MEASURES TO PROVIDE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE". STATEMENT POINTS OUT THAT INDUSTRIAL ACTION IS "ILLEGAL AND A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE OATH OF THE PROFESSION".

2. ACCORDING TO UNCONFIRMED REPORT, MEDICAL STAFF IN ONE LAGOS HOSPITAL HELD MEETING JANUARY 16 AND DECIDED TO CONTINUE THEIR "WORK TO UDOJI" DESPITE GENERAL GOWON'S THREAT. THEY CLAIM THEIR PROFESSIONAL STATUS HAS BEEN IGNORED AND IF FMG FEELS THEIR SERVICES ARE NOT REQUIRED THEY WILL GLADLY TURN TO PRIVATE PRACTICE. DOCTORS ALSO NOTED FMG IS FREE TO USE MILITARY MEDICAL PERSONNEL AS IT SEES FIT AND IS WELCOME TO STAFF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS WITH THESE PERSONNEL.

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3. COMMENT: IF ATTITUDE DISPLAYED BY LAGOS DOCTORS IS INDICATIVE

OF OTHER MEDICAL GROUPS WE CAN EXPECT DIRECT CONFRONTATION
BETWEEN FMG AND GOVERNMENT-HIRED DOCTORS ON UDOJI ISSUE.
MEDICAL STAFF HAVE NOW BEEN ON GO-SLOW SINCE JANUARY 2 AND
THERE IS RISING UNREST AMONG PUBLIC OVER LACK OF MEDICAL
SERVICES. ABILITY OF FMG TO FORCE DOCTORS BACK TO WORK IS
RATHER DOUBTFUL BUT FMG MAY BE EXPECTED TO TAKE STRONG ACTION
BY PERHAPS ARRESTING OR DETAINING SUPPOSED LEADERS IN MEDICAL
PROFESSION. ULTIMATUM WAS ISSUED AMONG INCREASING SIGNS OF
UNREST AMONG PUBLIC SERVICE MID-LEVEL AND SENIOR STAFF GROUPS
OVER UDOJI ANOMALIES AND FMG WILL HAVE TO MOVE RAPIDLY IF IT
HOPES TO HEAD OFF GROWING UNREST.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: MEDICAL DOCTORS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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